



**City of
Portland, Oregon**
Bureau of Development Services
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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BDS Erosion Control Inspections SOP (RS, CO, MG, MI, MP)

Erosion control regulations are contained in PCC 10.

The general requirements are as follows (PCC 10.30.020.A):

1. No visible and measurable sediment or pollutant shall exit the site, enter the public right-of-way or be deposited into any water body or storm drainage system.
2. Depositing or washing soil into a water body or the storm drainage system is prohibited.
3. Ground disturbing activities requiring a permit shall provide adequate public notification of the City's Erosion Control Complaint Hotline.

More detailed requirements are enumerated in PCC 10.30.020.B and 10.30.030.

The following inspections are required to be conducted (PCC 10.50.030):

- #200 Pre-Construction Erosion Control – Shall be conducted prior to or concurrently with first footing/foundation inspection. Customers are encouraged to bundle these inspection requests.
- #205 Interim Erosion Control Compliance Checks are conducted at the time of other building inspections.
- #210 Permanent Erosion Control – required prior to or concurrently with the final building inspection and after permanent erosion control measures, ground cover and landscaping are in place. Customers are encouraged to bundle these inspections.

A general summary of each inspection procedure is provided below:

#200 Pre-Construction Inspection

- Verify temporary erosion control measures are properly installed as shown on approved plans or as necessary based on site conditions. Temporary erosion control measures typically include:
 - Sediment fence trenched-in around the low-side perimeter of exposed soil areas.
 - Gravel construction entrance.
 - Catch basin inserts or biobags installed at storm drain inlets.
 - Plastic sheeting over soil stockpiles Oct. 1 through April 30.
- Verify tree protection fencing is installed and limits of disturbance are as shown on approved plans.
- Verify posting of erosion control hotline sign

#205 Erosion Control Interim Compliance Check

Interim erosion control checks are conducted during building permit inspections for land disturbing activities. These permitted ground disturbing activities include: clearing, grading footing wall and foundation installation.

- Verify that temporary erosion control measures are installed and appropriate to the site and adequately maintained
- Verify that no visible and measurable sediment or pollutant is being discharged or tracked offsite.

Residential – inspections are conducted by a combo inspector who is trained to identify erosion control issues. Combo inspectors conduct inspections in the disciplines of building, mechanical, electrical and plumbing. Any erosion control issues identified during a residential building permit inspection for land disturbing activities [e.g., footing, foundation walls, grading and clearing] are written up as a correction notice. The notice is posted on the site and filed at BDS [two year retention period]. Each building inspection is documented in TRACS and is evidence of a site visit.

Commercial – inspections are conducted by specialty inspectors in the disciplines of building/mechanical, plumbing and electrical. Building/mechanical inspectors conduct erosion control inspections. Electrical and plumbing inspectors do not. Any erosion control issues identified during a commercial building permit inspection for land disturbing activities [e.g., footing, foundation walls, grading and clearing] are written up as a correction notice. The notice is posted on site and filed at BDS. Each building inspection is documented in TRACS and is evidence of a site visit.

#210 Permanent Erosion Control Inspection

- Verify final grading, slope inclinations and slope setbacks are per code.
- Verify all exposed soils are covered with permanent ground cover. Permanent ground cover may include:
 - Plants or grasses
 - Bark or compost mulch
 - Pavement or flatwork
 - Clean gravel
 - Straw is not a permanent ground cover
- Verify landscaping is installed as shown on the approved plans.
- Verify presence and condition of preserved trees.